

Assault Support

MV-22 Osprey

Description

The MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor is a revolutionary, advanced technology vertical/short takeoff and landing (V/STOL), multi-purpose tactical aircraft being procured to replace the current fleet of Vietnam era CH-46E and CH-53D aircraft. The MV-22 will join the AAV and LCAC as an integral part of the amphibious triad necessary to execute the concept of OMFTS. Specific missions include amphibious and land assault, raid operations, medium cargo lift, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP), fleet logistic support, and special warfare. The MV-22's design incorporates the advanced but mature technologies of composite materials, fly-by-wire flight controls, digital cockpits, airfoil design, and manufacturing. The MV-22 Osprey is capable of carrying 24 combat-equipped Marines or a 10,000 pound external load. It also has a strategic self-deployment capability with a 2,100 nautical mile range with single aerial refueling. The MV-22's 38-foot prop-rotor system and engine/transmission nacelle mounted on each wing tip allow it to operate as a helicopter for takeoff and landing. Once airborne, the nacelles rotate forward 90 degrees, converting the MV-22 into a high-speed, high-altitude, fuel-efficient turbo-prop aircraft. The MV-22 is a multi-mission aircraft designed for use by all the Services. The Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force have committed to fielding this unique aircraft. Procurement of the MV-22 remains the Marine Corps number one aviation acquisition priority.

Operational Impact

The MV-22 will be the cornerstone of Marine Corps assault support possessing the speed, endurance, and survivability needed to fight and win on tomorrow's battlefield. This combat multiplier represents a quantum improvement in strategic mobility and tactical flexibility for amphibious and prepositioned maritime forces.

Program Status

The MV-22 has completed developmental testing and the EMD phase of the program. Thirty Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) aircraft have been procured in four lots to support MV-22 initial fleet fielding. OPEVAL completed on 15 July. Opeval and follow-on verification determined the MV-22 to be operationally effective and operationally suitable for the Marine Corps mission. The total programmed buy for V-22 is 458 total aircraft with 360 for the Marine Corps, 48 for the Navy, and 50 for the Air Force.

Procurement Profile: FY01 FY02

Quantity:	16	18
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Developer/Manufacturer

Bell Helicopter Textron, Fort Worth, TX
The Boeing Company, Philadelphia, PA